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CLAIMS

1. A record and replay apparatus comprising:
    transducing means for reproducing a digital signal from a
5   medium;
    a control means for controlling a reproduction mode of
said apparatus;
    means coupled to said transducing means for decoding
said digital signal and deriving therefrom a signal indicative of a
10 specific picture type; and,
    said reproduction mode having a first period of
reproduction at a normal play speed and a second period of
reproduction at a speed greater than said play speed, said first and
second periods alternating with said first period initiated responsive
15 to said signal indicative of a specific picture type.

2. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
second period of reproduction occurs during reproduction in one of a
forward and a reverse direction.
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3. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
digital signal represents an MPEG stream.

4. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
25 specific picture type corresponds to an intra coded frame.

5. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
control means is responsive to a stored sequence having alternating
play and fast play modes.

6. A record and replay apparatus comprising:

a source of an MPEG bit stream signal coupled to an input of said apparatus for recording;

5   a first transducing means for recording a digital signal representative of said MPEG bit stream;

a control means coupled to said MPEG bit stream signal and generating a signal indicating an intra coded frame occurrence in said MPEG bit stream;

10   a second transducing means for recording and reproducing a reference signal; and,

means responsive to said indicating signal for generating an identifying signal for recording with said reference signal.

15   7.   The recording and replay apparatus of claim 6, wherein said first transducing means reproduces said recorded signal in a reproducing mode comprising a sequence of play and fast play modes responsive to a stored sequence of play and fast play mode commands controlled by said control means.

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8.   The recording and replay apparatus of claim 7, wherein said control means initiates said reproducing mode responsive to said identifying signal coupled from said second transducing means.

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9. A recording and replay apparatus comprising:

a source of an MPEG bit stream signal coupled to said apparatus for recording;

5   means coupled to said MPEG bit stream signal for generating a record signal representative of said MPEG bit stream signal;

a pair of record transducers each aligned for recording said record signal and having complementary azimuth angles; and,

10   a control means coupled to receive a signal identifying an intra coded frame occurrence in said MPEG bit stream signal and controllably coupled to said generating means, wherein responsive to said identifying signal said control means enabling a record signal representative of an intra coded frame part of said MPEG bit stream

15   for recording by one of said transducer pair having a specific azimuth angle.

10. A recording and replay apparatus comprising:

a source of an MPEG bit stream signal coupled to said

20   apparatus for recording;

means coupled to said MPEG bit stream signal for generating a record signal representative of said MPEG bit stream signal

a record transducer pair having complementary azimuth

25   angles for recording said record signal;

a recording head coupled to a control track signal generator and generating a control track signal for recording;

a control means for receiving a signal identifying an intra coded frame occurrence in said MPEG bit stream signal, said control

30   means being controllably coupled to generating means and to said control track signal generator; and,

responsive to said identifying signal said control means enabling said generating means for coupling a record signal representative of an intra coded frame part of said MPEG bit stream

35   for recording by one transducer of said transducer pair having a specific azimuth angle, and responsive to said identifying signal said control means modifies said control track signal for recording.

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11. An apparatus for recording and reproducing digital signals from a medium, said apparatus having a trick play reproduction method comprising the steps of:

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    a)   sensing recorded I frame information;
    b)   playing said recorded I frame information;
    c)   initiating a fast play mode;
    d)   sensing subsequent recorded I frame information;
    e)   playing said subsequent recorded I frame information;
10 and,
    f)   controlling transitions between said play and said fast play modes responsive to a predetermined sequence.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said step a) comprises:
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    sensing a recorded signal indicative of said recorded I frame information.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said step c) comprises:
    servo controlling motion of said medium during said fast
20 play mode.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said step f) comprises:
    initiating said predetermined sequence responsive to said recorded signal indicative of said recorded I frame information.
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15. A recording and replay apparatus with trick play reproduction mode comprising the steps of:
    a)   initiating a play mode;
    b)   determining an average number of control track pulses
30 occurring between I frames;
    c)   selecting a trick play mode;
    d)   counting control track pulses to determine an average value;
    e)   testing a count for equality with said average number; and,
    f)   initiating said play mode at count equality.
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16. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 15, wherein said step b) additionally comprises:

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controlling average determination responsive to a reproduced I frame mark.

17. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 15, wherein said step b) additionally comprises:

controlling determination of average responsive to an I frame indicator decoded from reproduced data.

18. The recording and replay apparatus of claim 15, wherein said step d) additionally comprises:

controlling counting responsive to a reproduced I frame mark.

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